Government for a Central law to give effect to the Constitutional provision, under which differential fee can also be prescribed for the weaker sections.

Higher education as pro-rich and urban phenomenon

8. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to a report it has been found that higher education is a pro-rich and urban phenomenon;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to remove this disparity; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the enrolment of the SCs in higher education increased from 8.6 percent in 1990-91 to 11.3 per cent in 2002-03 while that of the STs was from 2.1 percent to 3.6 per cent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) The Government is not aware of any such report.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) According to the University Grants Commission (UGC), there is a trend of visible increase in the enrolment of SC/ST in Higher Education.

Unrecognized technical and professional courses

9. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many institutions all over India are offering degree in technical and professional courses which are not recognised by Government but have credential in private sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any plan to include such courses in Government institutions or universities or give affiliations to selected private institutions so that students are free from uncertainty about their future career prospects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) is empowered by an Act of Parliament to give approval for starting and running of technical institutions and courses in such institutions. The AICTE, however do not have exact data on institutions and courses not having any approval. If any information regarding institutions running unapproved technical courses comes to the notice of the Council, they issue show cause notices to such institutes.

(c) and (d) Any Institution/University that wishes to seek approval for running technical courses from AICTE may apply in the prescribed application form. All applications are then processed and approval given as per norms and guidelines of the Council. For the awareness of students, public notices are given in the newspapers and website that admission should only be taken in AICTE approved Technical Institutions.

Approval, Recognition and Accredition to Management Courses

10. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a new body to grant approval, recognition and accredition to management courses thus making AICTE the sole body to grant approval and recognition to technical institutions only;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. As per AICTE Act 1987, the All India Council for Technical Education is already empowered, to take all steps necessary including grant of approval and accreditation of management courses and to fulfill its statutory objectives of regulation and proper maintenance of norms and standards in the technical education system, which include management education also.